IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 15-33 without prejudice and/or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Amend the claims in the following manner:

In line 1 of each of Claims 2, 3, 6, and 9-14, please delete "disposable" and insert --system-- in place thereof.

1. (Once amended) [A disposable] An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said [disposable] system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support [associated] interfacing with said blood-related port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

4. (Once amended) A [disposable] system, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said support comprises means for reducing a tendency [deflection] of said blood processing vessel in a region of said blood-related port to deflect in a direction of a flow out of said blood processing vessel through said blood-related port when said blood processing vessel is pressurized within said blood processing channel.

5. (Once amended) A [disposable] system, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

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said blood processing channel comprises first and second channel sidewalls, wherein said channel housing further comprises a blood-related port slot which intersects with one of said first and second channel sidewalls and a recess formed on said one of said first and second channel sidewalls and containing at least part of said blood-related port slot, wherein said support of said blood processing vessel is positioned within said recess.

7. (Once amended) A [disposable] system, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said blood processing vessel further comprises:

a blood inlet port; and

a control port for controlling a radial position of at least one interface between red blood cells and an adjacent blood component type, wherein said blood-related port [assembly] comprises at least said control port.

8. (Once amended) A ~~disposable~~ system, as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:

said support comprises means for disposing said control port at a predetermined position within said blood processing channel and independent of a portion of said blood processing vessel through which said [interface] control port extends.

Please add claims 34-39 as follows:

-- 34. An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support associated with said blood-related port, and interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel, wherein said blood processing channel comprises first and second channel sidewalls, wherein said channel housing further comprises a blood-related port slot which intersects with one of said first and second channel sidewalls and a recess formed on said one of said first and second channel sidewalls and containing at least part of said blood-related port slot, wherein said support of said blood processing vessel is positioned within said recess.

B3 (cont.)

15 ~~35~~. A system, as claimed in Claim 14 ~~34~~, wherein:

a thickness of said support is substantially equal to a thickness of said recess.

16 ~~36~~. An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel, said blood processing vessel further comprising a blood inlet port and a control port for controlling a radial position of at least one interface between red blood cells and an adjacent blood component type, wherein said blood-related port comprises at least said control port; and

a support associated with said blood-related port, and interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing

vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

17 ~~37~~. A system, as claimed in Claim ~~36~~ 16, wherein:

said support comprises means for disposing said control port at a predetermined position within said blood processing channel and independent of a portion of said blood processing vessel through which said control port extends.

18 ~~38~~. A system, as claimed in Claim ~~37~~ 17, wherein:

said control port extends beyond an inner wall of said blood processing vessel into an interior of said blood processing vessel.

B3 (Cm4)

19 ~~39~~. An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support associated with said blood-related port, and interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel, wherein said blood-related port comprises at least one of a blood inlet port to said blood processing vessel, a red blood cell outlet port to said blood processing vessel, and a control port to said blood processing vessel for controlling a radial position of at least one interface between red blood cells and an adjacent blood component type. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 5.

In line 1 of Claim 6, please delete "5" and insert --1-- in place thereof.

C1

1. (Twice amended) An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support interfacing with said blood-related port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel, wherein said blood processing channel comprises first and second channel sidewalls, wherein said channel housing further comprises a blood-related port slot which intersects with one of said first and second channel sidewalls and a recess formed on said one of said first and second channel sidewalls and containing at least part of said blood-related port slot, wherein said support of said blood processing vessel is positioned within said recess.

b1. (Twice amended) [A system, as claimed in Claim 1,] An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

C2 a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel, wherein said blood processing vessel further comprises:

a blood inlet port; [and]

a control port for controlling a radial position of at least one interface between red blood cells and an adjacent blood component type; and[, wherein said blood-related port comprises at least said control port]

a support interfacing with at least said control port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

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9 ~~10~~. (Twice Amended) [A system, as claimed in Claim 1,] An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

C3

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support interfacing with said blood-related port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood

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processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

wherein[:] said blood-related port comprises at least one of a blood inlet port to said blood processing vessel, a red blood cell outlet port to said blood processing vessel, and a control port to said blood processing vessel for controlling a radial position of at least one interface between red blood cells and an adjacent blood component type.

C3 (cont)

13~~14~~. (Twice amended) [A system, as claimed in Claim 1,] An extracorporeal system for an apheresis system comprising a blood processing channel, said system comprising:

C4

a blood processing vessel positionable in said channel and comprising a blood-related port communicating with an interior of said blood processing vessel; and

a support interfacing with said blood-related port, and further interfacing with an exterior surface of said blood processing vessel in overlapping relation with a portion of said blood processing vessel.

wherein[:] said support comprises means for disposing said blood-related port at a predetermined position within said blood processing channel and independent of a portion of said blood processing vessel through which said blood-related port extends.
